

Briefly Told

Ouija boards are made in Baltimore. So great has been the demand that a new \$125,000 factory addition has been made to meet it.

"Life," the American humorous weekly, has been purchased by Charles Dana Gibson, the artist. Mr. Gibson is 53 years old. His first drawing for Life netted him \$4.

"The Puritans were by no means as intolerant and credulous and fanatical as they are painted. They had a fondness for color and extravagant clothing, and possessed a distinct sense of humor."—Bliss Perry.

John McCormack pays more income tax than any other singer, the aggregate being \$140,000 since the war began.

An organization of "blackcoats," called the General Association of Intellectual Workers, has been completed in France.

Philip Gibbs, in a new book, says that one day the German soldiers displayed a plank on which was chalked: "We're all fools; let's all go home." Every war writer now seems free to say what he really thinks of it.

Sir Robert Armstrong Jones, the British expert in mental diseases, says the danger of alcohol is its destruction of the power to say "No," which is really the only distinction between man and the lower animals.

France has ordered 500,000 tombstones to mark her soldier graves.

"Public distrust of news is the most notable feature in journalism of recent years," says Kennedy Jones.

Lenine was interviewed with a cat on his knee, which he stroked fondly during the conversation.

D'Annunzio is a Jew from Calabria, his real name being Rapagnetta, says the Jugo-Slav Economist. He received the name Gabriel D'Annunzio from likening himself to the Angel Gabriel announcing liberty to Italy.

The King's National Roll is a list of those British firms which make a point of employing disabled ex-soldiers. It contains the names of 9,500 firms, who employ 86,000 disabled men.

The lamplighters of London are mostly women.

Dr. Jowett, recently of the United States but now returned to his London Presbyterian Church, was lately invited to preach in Durham Cathedral. The invitation to a Presbyterian to preach in an Anglican cathedral caused much comment. Just before Dr. Jowett began to preach, an Anglican vicar rose in the midst of the vast throng of 7,000 persons and made loud protest. To complete the interdenominationalism of the event, a party of coal miners started up a Methodist hymn to quell the disorder, and all the people joined in.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby has studied the motherhood of the London poor and pronounces the best mother to be the Jewess, the Irish mother a close second, and the English mother a bad third.

The cheapness of the German mark is enabling German manufacturers to capture the trade in markets that have grown tired of high prices. She will soon again be a commercial power to reckon with, say European business observers.

Killing muskrats netted a Michigan farmer \$800 in one day. The rodents had been driven from their homes by spring floods. Skins which in former years sold for 15 to 25 cents now bring above \$2.

Herding reindeer by aeroplane is one of the newest uses of that machine. Great herds of deer and caribou live north of the Canadian prairie provinces which it would be difficult to handle any other way.

"Patriotism, enthusiasm for the British Empire, or the Cause was not at all a prominent motive in the dim mind of the average khaki-clad English wage-earner. He was actuated by a very vague impulse. The chief was a certain eagerness to avail himself of any opportunity to escape from the drudgery of earning wages, even if it were a change from the frying pan into the fire. The prospect of a change, together with the added glamour of khaki, hypnotized and fascinated him."—English Review.

Rose bushes are near relations of our common fruit trees, the cherry, peach and plum.

Glass blowing is one of the occupations that remain unchanged by machinery. No mechanical device has been found to equal or excel "handblowing."

It is said by Sir John Anderson that in Great Britain over 80,000 persons came from below a \$25,000 annual income to above it, during the war. No wonder there are those who favor "the next war."

Charge 15 per cent less for transporting coal in the summer than you charge in the winter, and you will stabilize coal shipments, says Senator Freylinghausen. Winter shipments leave 250,000 coal cars idle during the summer, he declares.

The army sold \$3,097,305 worth of surplus property during the first week of March.

Japanese capital is developing the lumber industry in the Philippines.

The American consular agent for Nova Scotia has held that position for 48 years.

Germany's knitting industry embraces 16,000 mills.

Anti-Jewish outbreaks accompanied the revolt in Germany. The Jewish population of Germany is greater now than ever before, due to persecutions elsewhere, there being 210,000 in Berlin alone.

American trees are being planted over the American dead in France, by the American Forestry Association. American seed will be used to reforest much of devastated France.

Mr. Bryan declares that neither party will dare to put a wet plank into its platform.

A new party has emerged out of the mist of words, which fully approves the concrete pledge of a military alliance between the United States and France, while it denounces "the responsible internationalism of the League of Nations."

The orgy of advertising in which business is indulging just now may use up some of the money which would otherwise have to be paid in excess profits taxes, and it may get some goods off store shelves and onto closet shelves before deflation sets in. But we are very near the point of saturation."—The Villager.

Tenants are warning New Yorkers that unless protective laws for renters are passed, the problem of the next state assembly will not be whether five Socialist members shall be seated, but whether the Socialist assembly that shall be elected will seat the five Democratic or Republican members that might happen to be elected.

Taxicab business is rapidly falling off in London because of high fares due to the cost of gasoline—or, to Anglicize it, "the price of petrol."

Of the 30,000 war contracts which existed at the time of the armistice, all have been settled up with the exception of 2,500.

Protests are being made in England against the sale in America of much ancient and valuable church plate. Many old English churches are compelled by decreased incomes to raise money by this means.

In view of the controversy concerning the naval strength of the United States during the war, this opinion of a German naval officer may be interesting: Capt. von Hase, in his book on the Jutland naval battle, says—"If Admiral Jellicoe had tried to join issue off Horn's Reef, England's fleet would undoubtedly have had to relinquish in favor of America its rank as the strongest fleet in the world."

Liquor statistics: 116 passengers on the good ship Calamares consumed \$1,700 worth of drinks in 22 days.

The old system of dry goods clerks "living in," or boarding and lodging in the stores where they work, still survives in London, but is rapidly disappearing.

One of the obstacles to the Peace Conference plan to set standards for industrial relations was Japan's inability to accept these standards because her practice with regard to wages and hours was less progressive than any other state. Vast reform agitation now shaking Japan may remove this obstacle.

Of 140,000 Armenian Catholics, hardly 50,000 have survived Turkish persecution. One bishop was burned at the stake, one burned alive and five others died of hunger and hardships.

Frederick Harrison suggests that if war offenders are to be tried, a court of neutral powers be set up at The Hague, with the Allies appearing as accusers and the Central Powers as defenders.

The Quakers of the world will meet in conference at London next August.

If the bill to enfranchise women at the age of 21 passes the British Parliament, there will be half a million more women voters than men. Wags have expressed the fear that the women will then turn around and take the vote away from the men.

A local election in France showed 1,037 persons to be in favor of alcoholic prohibition, to 162 against.

Tuesday is the day on which the British Parliament opens because in 1809, William Wilberforce protested that a Monday opening would involve Sunday travel for distant members.

Editions of the Russian classics never exceeded 30,000 copies under the Czar's régime. The Bolsheviks are running them off by the half million.

Maxim Gorky has been made deputy by the railway soviet "as a symbol of harmony between labor and art." Professor Timiriazeff has been chosen by the Kursk laborers "to symbolize the union between labor and science." This would indicate that sentiment still survives in Soviet Russia.

In Berlin 80,000 families are house-hunting. In Germany formerly 200,000 houses were built every year, but construction work is now at a complete standstill.

An ossuary, a receptacle for human bones, is being erected on the battlefield at Verdun in memory of the dead.

Sir Horace Plunkett, who recently returned to Ireland from a tour of the United States, said in a Dublin speech: "I found a more bitter anti-English feeling than in all my 40 years of observation, and it was generally expressed in what I might call Irish terms."

A St. Catherine's, Ontario, lady recently discovered in an old cabinet a copy of the London Times of October 3, 1798, which contained the official account of Lord Nelson's Battle of the Nile.

Dr. Gordon Gray, a Presbyterian minister at Rome for 40 years, is dead.

Farm laborers of England are demanding a 48-hour week.

"Our forefathers did not know how to swear and our people are too lazy to learn more than one swear-word."—Clerkenwell Magistrate.

The Crown jewels of England have been taken from the Tower of London to the Bank of England for safe-keeping.

London hotels have refused accommodations to members of the German diplomatic mission. Porters at the station would not handle their luggage. The Germans expressed great surprise, especially that one hotel which received them for one night requested them to leave next morning.

It is estimated that 125,000,000 gallons of water are wasted in New York every day through leaky faucets.

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